



April 14, 2014

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Secretary Anthony Foxx
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

National College of Natural Medicine is pleased to express our **support** for 2014 TIGER grant funding for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects. Our region understands the highly competitive nature of this program and has worked hard to limit the number of applications and to ensure that all applications meet the program criteria.

The National College of Natural Medicine aka, NCNM, recognizes the significance of this grant in providing potential expansion of much needed public transportation to Portland and the surrounding metropolitan area. Convenient, safe public transportation is vital to our community. Not only do our students, who live in various parts of the Portland area, highly value this resource, so too do our patients. Our teaching clinic attracts increasing numbers of individuals and families and this trend will only continue given the outcomes of the Affordable Care Act and the access to naturopathic and Chinese medicine care through Medicaid.

When potential students visit our campus and discover the extraordinary potential for environmentally and economically responsible transportation of the kind contemplated in the TIGER project for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division, they are palpably motivated to choose Portland for their naturopathic and/or classical Chinese medical training.

NCNM wants to support Portland's huge potential as an educational and training center of choice for integrative medicine in America. Portland is a leader in natural medicine education, unique in the United States. The Oregon Collaborative for Integrated Medicine is over a decade old, including NCNM, the Oregon Health Sciences University, the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, the University of Western States and Pacific University. This collectivity of students not only demand convenient and cost effective transportation, but as well understand the benefits it provides in the depletion of greenhouse gases. That they are the health care providers of the future is hugely enhanced by good transportation systems to get them to their classes, clinics and placements.

A 2014 TIGER grant for the Southwest Corridor and Powell-Division Opportunity Crescent projects would help bring the benefits of high capacity transit to the entire Portland metropolitan region and support the success of the next generation of residents by increased access to educational opportunity areas in our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Schleich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. David Schleich,
President and CEO

cc: Noah Siegel, Policy Advisor at Metro Regional Government, Portland OR

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